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DOUBLE DRAGON
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CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941–1991

DOUBLE JEOPARDY
THERE IS A GIFT OF GREAT POWER, GRANTED TO WORTHY DEFENDERS IN THE ENDLESS BATTLE AGAINST EVIL.
THE GIFT IS CALLED THE DRAGON FORCE. ITS PREVIOUS GUARDIAN, SENSEI, PASSED THE GIFT TO THESE MEN, JAMES AND WILLIAM LEE.
THEY ARE THE FIRST TWINS EVER TO POSSESS THE DRAGON FORCE. IN THEIR HANDS THE DRAGON'S AWESOME POWER IS DOUBLED.
SENSEI HAD PLANNED TO SPEND THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS INSTRUCTING THE BROTHERS IN THE SUBTLETIES OF THE DRAGON FORCE'S USES.
FATE, HOWEVER, HAS OTHER PLANS...

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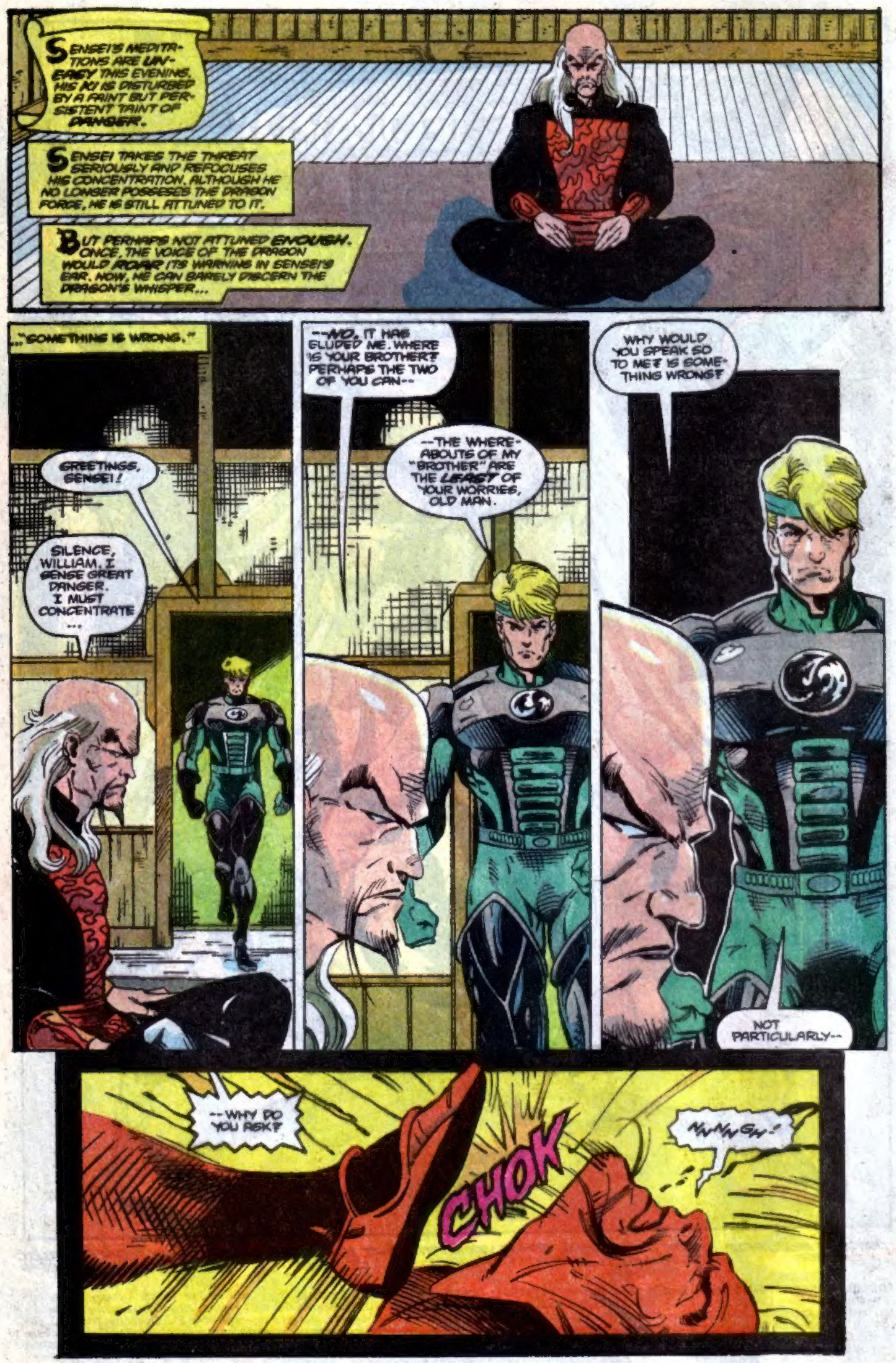
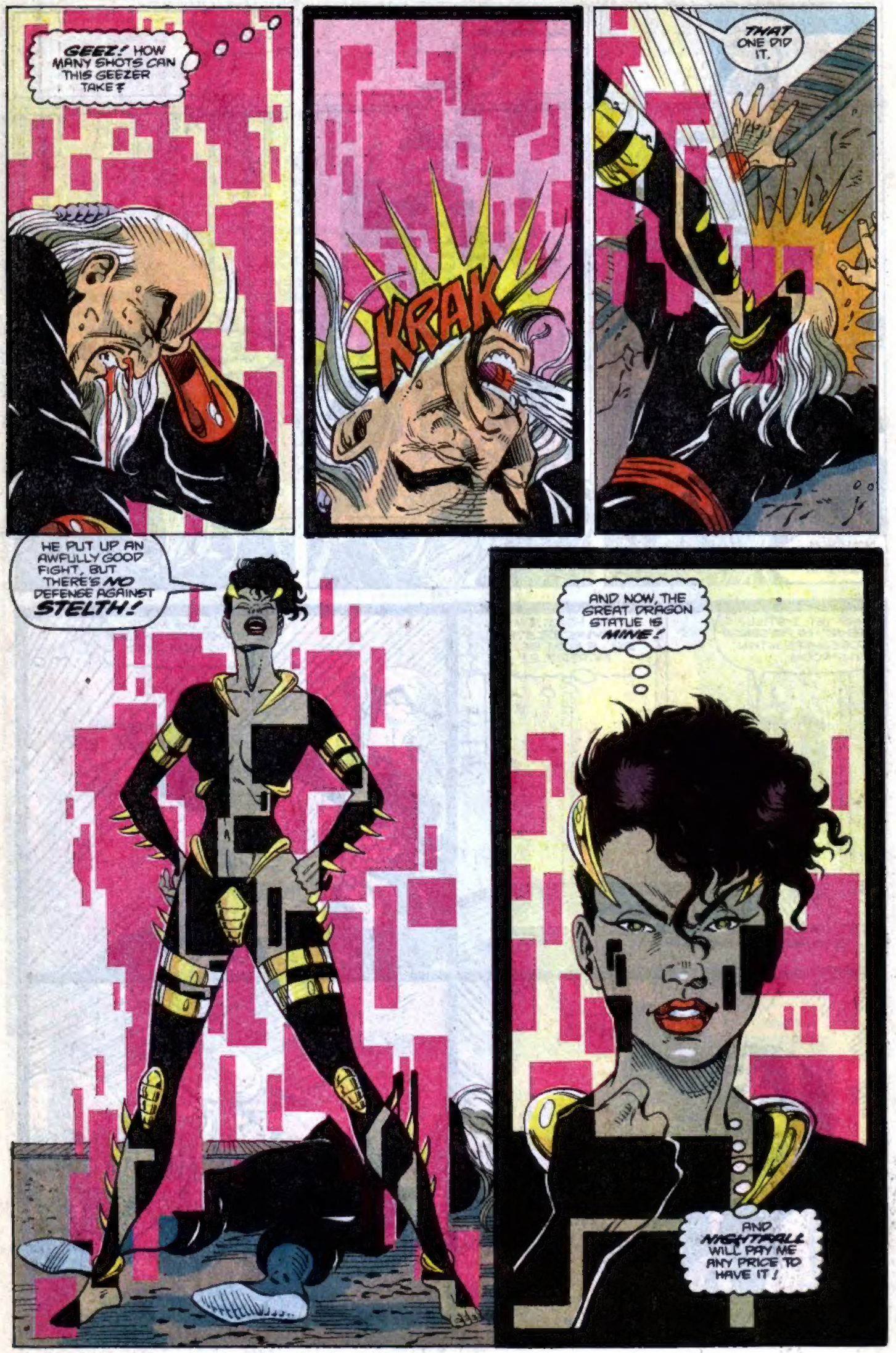
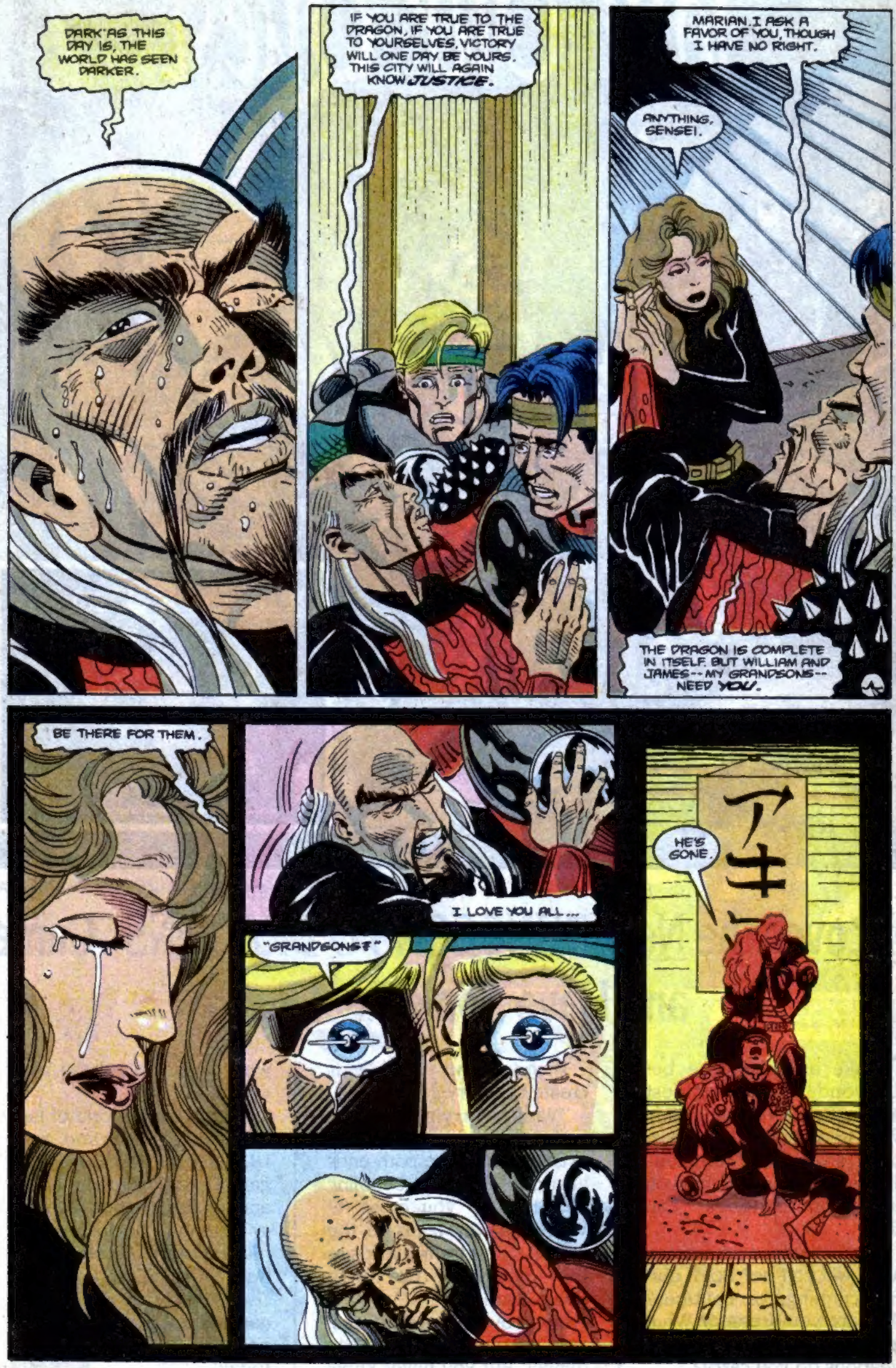

SENSEI'S MEDITATIONS ARE UNEASY THIS EVENING. HIS KI IS DISTURBED BY A FAINT BUT PERSISTENT TAINT OF DANGER.
SENSEI TAKES THE THREAT SERIOUSLY AND REFOCUSES HIS CONCENTRATION. ALTHOUGH HE NO LONGER POSSESES THE DRAGON FORCE, HE IS STILL ATTUNED TO IT.
BUT PERHAPS NOT ATTUNED ENOUGH. ONCE, THE VOICE OF THE DRAGON WOULD ROAR ITS WARNING IN SENSEI'S EAR. NOW, HE CAN BARELY DISCERN THE DRAGON'S WHISPER...
..."SOMETHING IS WRONG."
GREETINGS, SENSEI!
SILENCE, WILLIAM. I SENSE GREAT DANGER. I MUST CONCENTRATE ...
--AND, IT HAS ELUDED ME. WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER? PERHAPS THE TWO OF YOU CAN--
--THE WHEREABOUTS OF MY "BROTHER" ARE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, OLD MAN.
WHY WOULD YOU SPEAK SO TO ME? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NOT PARTICULARLY--
--WHY DO YOU ASK?
CHOK
NNNNGH!

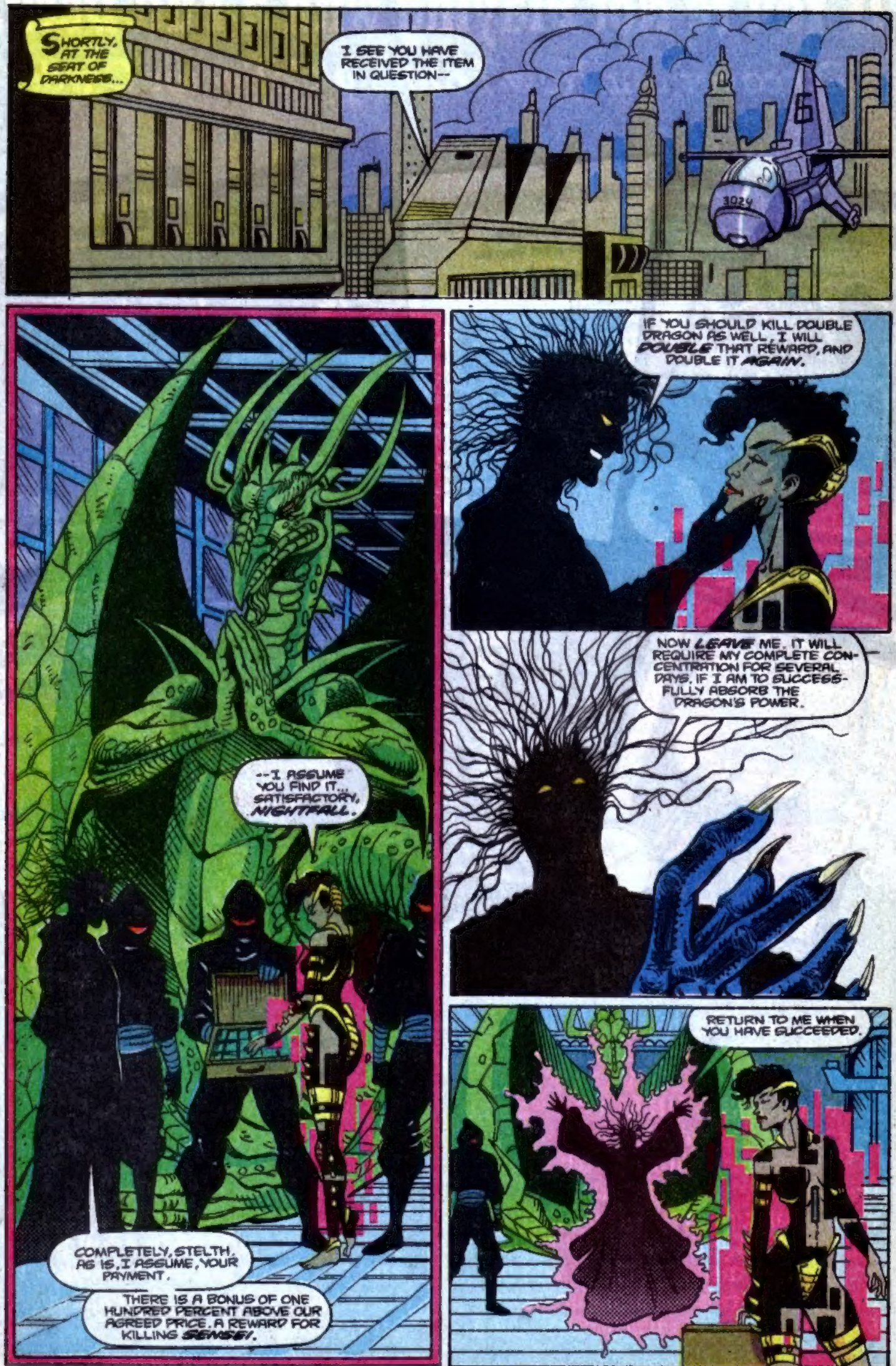
YOU! YOU ARE NOT BILLY LEE.
NO FLIES ON YOU, GRANDPA.
AT LEAST, NOT YET.
HE HAS VANISHED!?
AND YET, I STILL SENSE HIS PRESENCE SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE ROOM...
IN THIS FORM, I'M ALL BUT INVISIBLE. HIS SKILLS MUST BE INCREDIBLE!
SMELL
ALL THE MORE REASON TO FINISH THIS QUICKLY.
KRAK
CHOK
SPAK


GEEZ! HOW MANY SHOTS CAN THIS GEEZER TAKE?
KRAK
THAT ONE DID IT.
HE PUT UP AN AWFULLY GOOD FIGHT, BUT THERE'S NO DEFENSE AGAINST STELTH!
AND NOW, THE GREAT DRAGON STATUE IS MINE!
AND NIGHTFALL WILL PAY ME ANY PRICE TO HAVE IT!

IN ORDER TO RESCUE THEIR FRIEND, POLICE-WOMAN MARIAN STERLE FROM CERTAIN DEATH, THE DOUBLE DRAGON HAVE JUST RUN A GAUNTLET OF DEATH-TRAPS LEFT FOR THEM BY MASATFALL, OVERLORD OF CRIME IN THE CITY OF OLIGOPOLIS.
JIMMY! THE SPEED LIMIT'S STILL 75! SLOW DOWN!
SPARE ME THE TRAFFIC SAFETY LECTURE, WILL YOU? SENSEI'S IN DANGER, AND THE DRAGON STATUE'S BEEN STOLEN.
RRROAR
THE STATUE IS THE SOURCE OF OUR POWERS. WITHOUT IT, WE NO LONGER CONTROL THE DRAGON FORCE!
"AS THE DRAGONS FOUND OUT LAST ISSUE. -- EVAN
AND WITHOUT THE DRAGON FORCE, WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THOSE WHO WOULD ENSLAVE THIS CITY.
OTHER THAN THAT, THOUGH ...
...IT'S BEEN A GREAT DAY.
NO!!
SENSEI!!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
NOT NOW, BILLY. WE MUST GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL!
NO. I WOULD NOT SURVIVE BEING MOVED.
I HAD HOPED TO TEACH YOU A GREAT DEAL MORE. SADLY, NOW THERE IS TIME FOR BUT ONE LAST LESSON.
YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOUNG DRAGONS...

"YOU TWO ARE BUT THE MOST RECENT BEARERS OF A PROUD TRADITION. GENERATIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN GIFTED WITH THE POWER OF THE DRAGON FORCE. ALL HAVE SWORN TO USE THEIR GIFT FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
"IT WAS MY WISH TO TEACH YOU ALL OF THE ABILITIES THE DRAGON FORCE GRANTS YOU. THIS IS NOT TO BE.
"PERHAPS BY DISCOVERING YOUR POTENTIAL YOURSELVES, YOU CAN TRANSCEND WHAT WE HAD BELIEVED TO BE THE LIMITS OF THE DRAGON'S POWER. PERHAPS NOT.
"I DO KNOW THIS, YOU TWO MUST ALWAYS FIGHT AS ONE. AND YOU MUST NEVER GIVE IN TO DESPAIR."


DARK AS THIS DAY IS, THE WORLD HAS SEEN DARKER.
IF YOU ARE TRUE TO THE DRAGON, IF YOU ARE TRUE TO YOURSELVES, VICTORY WILL ONE DAY BE YOURS. THIS CITY WILL AGAIN KNOW JUSTICE.
MARIAN, I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU, THOUGH I HAVE NO RIGHT.
ANYTHING, SENSEI.
THE DRAGON IS COMPLETE IN ITSELF. BUT WILLIAM AND JAMES -- MY GRANDSONS -- NEED YOU.
BE THERE FOR THEM.
I LOVE YOU ALL...
"GRANDSONS?"
アキラ
HE'S GONE.

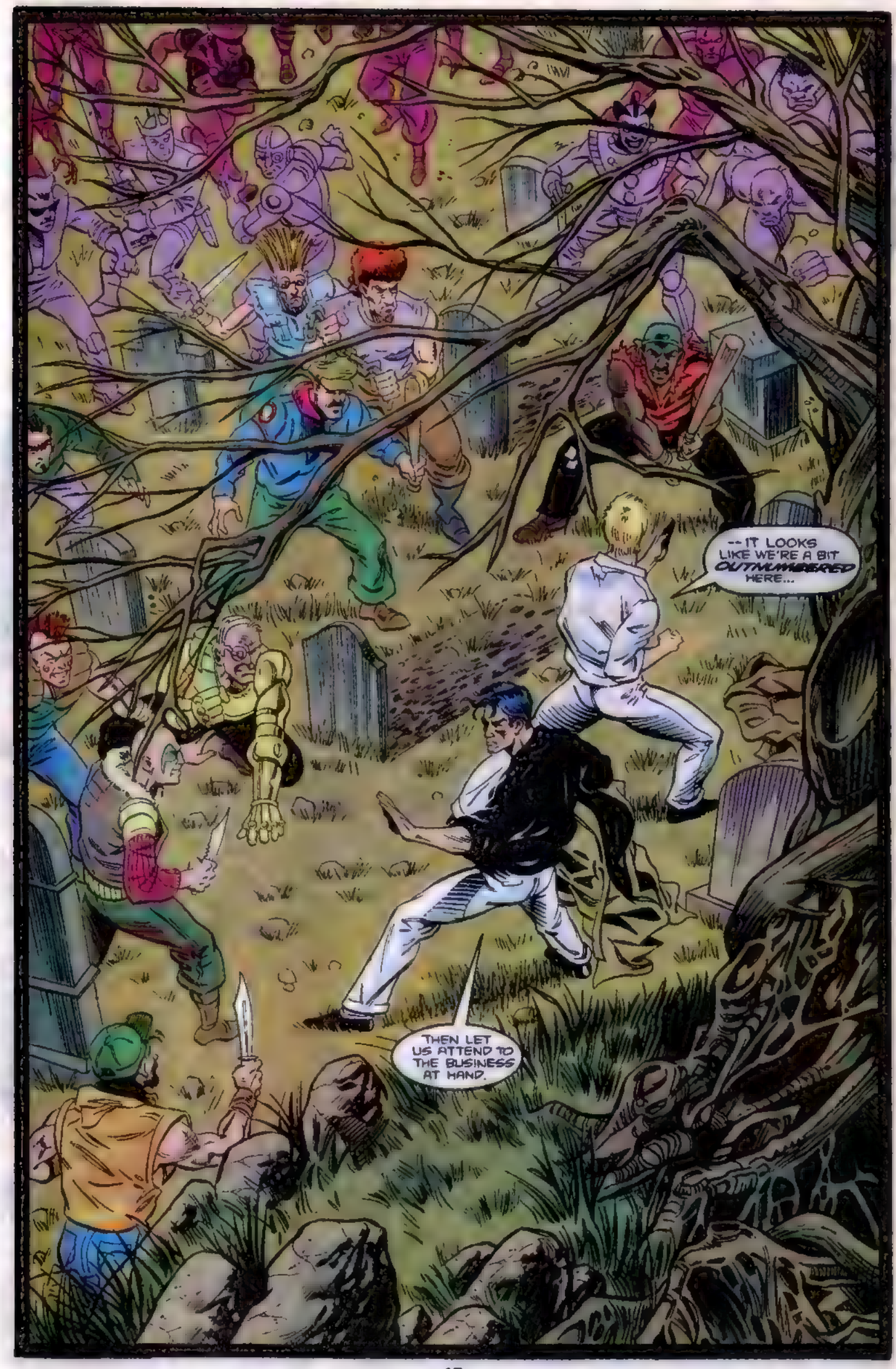

SHORTLY, AT THE SEAT OF DARKNESS...
I SEE YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE ITEM IN QUESTION--
--I ASSUME YOU FIND IT... SATISFACTORY, NIGHTFALL.
COMPLETELY, STELTH, AS IS, I ASSUME, YOUR PAYMENT.
THERE IS A BONUS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ABOVE OUR AGREED PRICE. A REWARD FOR KILLING SENSEI.
IF YOU SHOULD KILL DOUBLE DRAGON AS WELL, I WILL DOUBLE THAT REWARD, AND DOUBLE IT AGAIN.
NOW LEAVE ME. IT WILL REQUIRE MY COMPLETE CONCENTRATION FOR SEVERAL DAYS, IF I AM TO SUCCESSFULLY ABSORB THE DRAGON'S POWER.
RETURN TO ME WHEN YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED.

THE 12TH POLICE PRECINCT, OLIGOPOLIS SOUTH. MARIAN STEELE IS ON THE JOB...
...AND THIRD, NEVER PULL A GUN ON SOMEONE ON MY BEAT. YOU HEAR ME, YOU MISBEGOTTEN SON OF GENETIC RESEARCH?
UH OH.
SNAP
NOW YOU PAY--
ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU LOOK MUCH BIGGER WHEN YOUR HANDCUFFS ARE BROKEN?
BACK OFF!
WHUDD
KRUNK
BOOK THAT CREEP. HE BROKE MY FAVORITE CHAIR.
MARIAN!
JIMMY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MAY WE TALK OUTSIDE?

IT IS ABOUT SENSEI'S DEATH. I AM NOT SURE HOW TO SAY THESE THINGS...
TZ
SPORTS
IT'S OKAY TO TALK ABOUT IT. TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE FEELING.
MMMP!
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET, JIMMY, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
KRAK
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, OFFICER STEELE--
--I'M A SUCKER FOR A PRETTY FACE MYSELF.
IN FACT, I THINK I'LL TAKE YOURS.
I'LL NEED TO KEEP THE GENUINE ARTICLE OUT OF SIGHT FOR A WHILE. THE TRUNK OF HER CAR'LL DO. NO SENSE KILLING HER FOR AWHILE.
KLUB

OLIGOPOLIS MEMORIAL PARK...
GOODBYE, SENSEI.
JIMMY? BILLY?
SENSEI
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GET HERE EARLIER. I HAD IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
SENSEI
MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS?!
EASY, JIMMY.
HE'S SORRY, MARIAN. HE'S GRIEVING.
AS WELL HE SHOULD. YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR MENTOR AND FRIEND, AND YOU HAVE LOST YOUR DRAGON STATUE, THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWERS.

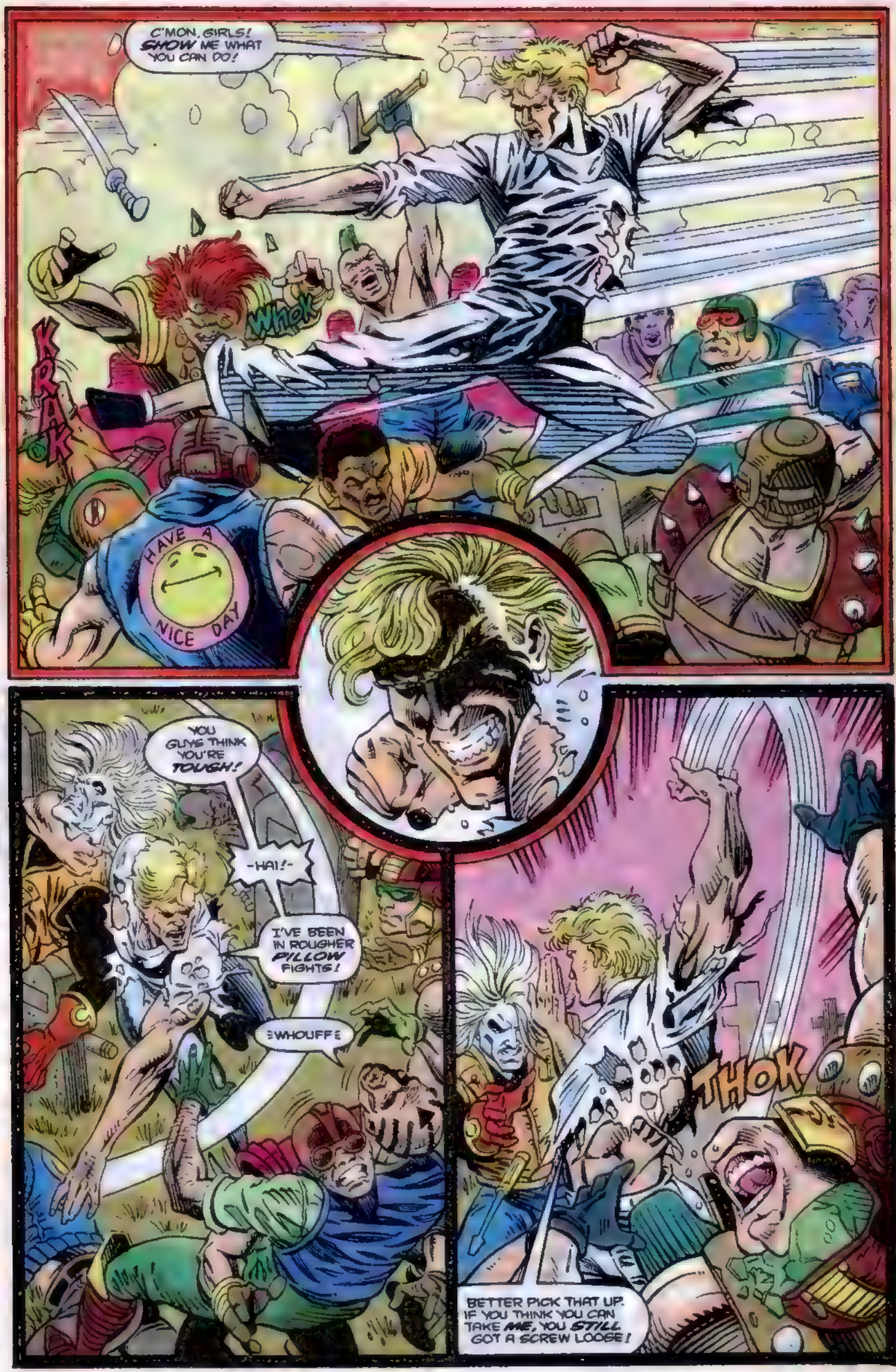
BUT, DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR ENEMIES, AMONG THEM THE MANY STREET GANGS WHOSE MEMBERS YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR ONE CRIME OR ANOTHER, ARE NOW AWARE THAT YOU ARE POWERLESS?
THIS IS NOT MARIAN.
NO, IT'S STELTH. AND SHE'S GOT TO BE THE ONE WHO KILLED SENSEI.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE RETURN THE FAVOR?
I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU TRY.
BUT YOU APPEAR TO HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT.
SHE MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO THE REAL MARIAN. WE MUST HELP HER.
BUDDY, FIRST WE BETTER HELP OURSELVES--


--IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE A BIT OUTNUMBERED HERE...
THEN LET US ATTEND TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

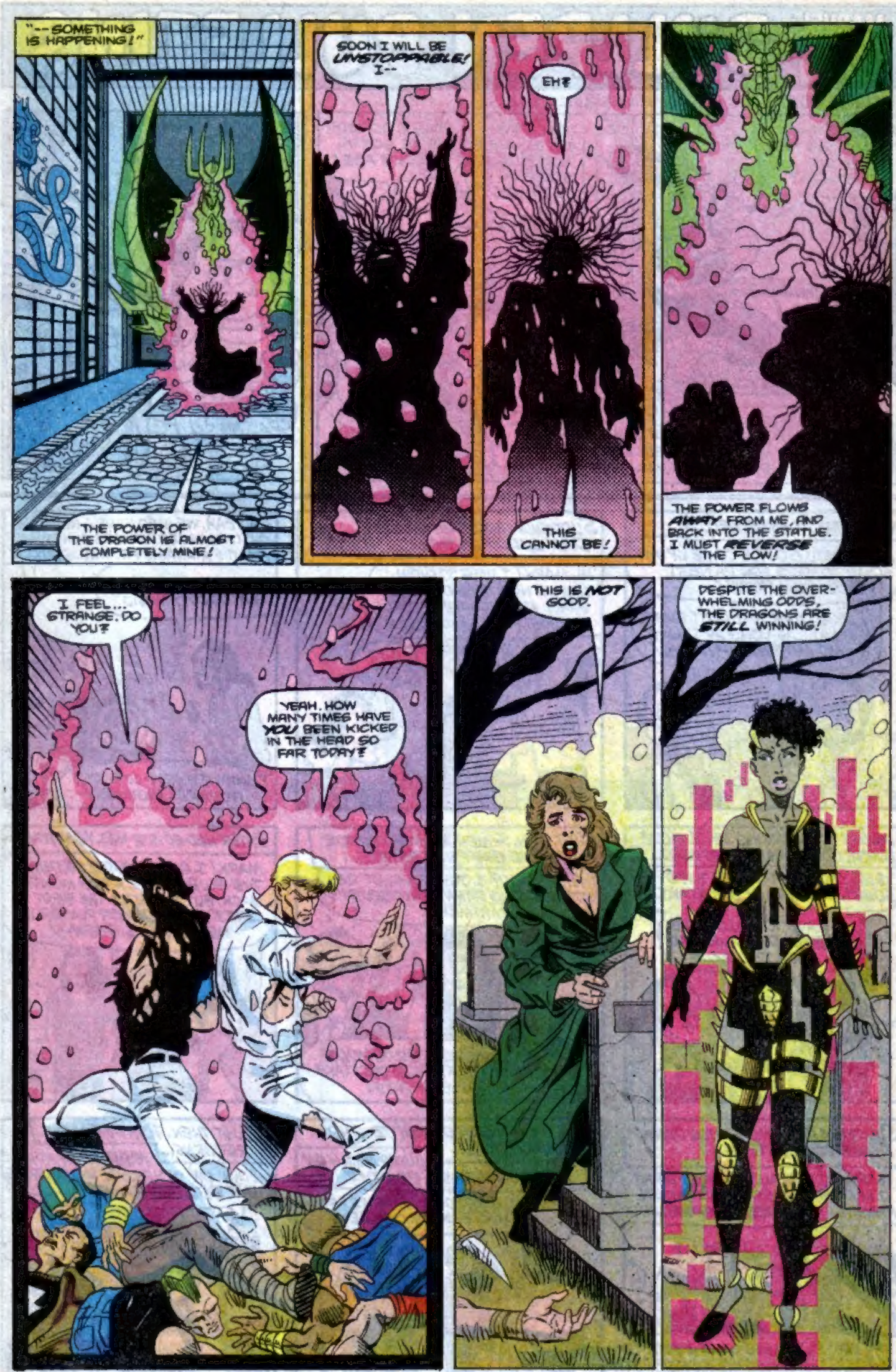
KRAK
KIIII!
THOK
I GOT HIM!
YOU DO NOT.
THUNK

WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN HERE WHERE I CAN REACH YOU, PUNK?
SURE THING--
--CAN'T IMAGINE WHY YOU'D WANT ME TO, THOUGH.
KRUNCH
PERHAPS IT WAS TO BRING YOU IN RANGE OF MY ENERGY GAUNTLETS!
MY DEATH TOUCH IS THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER FEEL!
OH.
WHUDD
GUESS I'D BETTER NOT LET YOU TOUCH ME THEN, HUH?

KRAK
HE'S ONLY ONE MAN. WE CAN TAKE HIM!
LET'S DO IT. ALL WE NEED IS ONE LUCKY SHOT!
WE'RE WEARING HIM DOWN! PILE ON!
IT IS TRUE. MY TIME WILL COME. AND I WILL SOMEDAY BE DEFEATED--
KRUNCH
THOK
WHUNK
THUD
BUT NOT ON THIS DAY--
--AND NEVER BY THE LIKES OF YOU!!


C'MON, GIRLS! SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO!
KRAK
Whok
HAVE A NICE DAY
YOU GUYS THINK YOU'RE TOUGH!
-HA!-
I'VE BEEN IN ROUGHER PILLOW FIGHTS!
WHOUFF
THOK
BETTER PICK THAT UP. IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, YOU STILL GOT A SCREW LOOSE!

PERSISTENT LITTLE HORDE --HUH HUNH-- ISN'T IT?
I--HUNH--SURE COULD USE THOSE DRAGON POWERS RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
WHUDD
THOK
YOU SHOULD NOT TALK SO MUCH WHILE YOU'RE FIGHTING.
WHY? YOU THINK --HUNH--OUR PLAY-MATES'LL CONSIDER ME RUDE?
WHUMP
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, MISS MANNERS --HUNH--ISN'T TOO SPECIFIC ABOUT FREE-FOR-ALL ETIQUETTE.
SKOW
SHOCKING OVERSIGHT ON HER PART, HUH?
I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOUR NEED TO ENDLESSLY PRATTLE--
BILLY? CAN YOU FEEL IT?


"--SOMETHING IS HAPPENING!"
THE POWER OF THE DRAGON IS ALMOST COMPLETELY MINE!
SOON I WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE! I--
EH?
THIS CANNOT BE!
THE POWER FLOWS AWAY FROM ME, AND BACK INTO THE STATUE. I MUST REVERSE THE FLOW!
I FEEL... STRANGE. DO YOU?
YEAH. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN KICKED IN THE HEAD SO FAR TODAY?
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
DESPITE THE OVER-WHELMING ODDS, THE DRAGONS ARE STILL WINNING!

ONE THING I CANNOT ABIDE IS A FAIR FIGHT.
LET'S SEE IF MY POWER OF ILLUSION CAN'T REATTACK THE DECK AGAINST THE DRAGONS ONCE AGAIN.
NOW EVERYONE WITHIN THE RANGE OF MY ILLUSION FIELD IS A DUPLICATE OF ONE OF THE DRAGONS.
HEY! THEY ALL LOOK JUST LIKE US! NOT THAT IT ISN'T A MAJOR IM-PROVEMENT, MIND YOU, BUT WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE. WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT.
AND FIGHT THEY DO... BATTLING WITHOUT RESPITE FOR ONE HOUR. TWO. THREE.

UNTIL, OUT OF THE THREE HUNDRED-ODD MEN WHO BEGAN THE BATTLE, ONLY TWO REMAIN STANDING.
HEY, "JIMMY"!
THE ODDS OF MY BROTHER AND I BOTH SURVIVING THAT FIGHT WITHOUT OUR POWERS IS PRACTICALLY NIL.
THEN YOU MUST BE AN IMPOSTOR. PERHAPS YOU ARE STELTH, HERSELF.
JUST THE KIND OF THING I'D EXPECT HER TO SAY.
THIS WORKED OUT BETTER THAN I HAD HOPED. BOTH OF THE REAL DOUBLE DRAGONS DID SURVIVE. NOW BROTHER WILL KILL BROTHER. THEN I WILL KILL WHOMEVER REMAINS. THE FINAL VICTORY IS MINE!

SO, YOU READY TO RUMBLE?
ALRIGHT THEN, "BROTHER", TO THE DEATH!
NEXT:
IT HAD TO HAPPEN! BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER--IN THE MARTIAL ARTS BATTLE OF THE CENTURY! BE HERE IN THIRTY DAYS TO SEE! "ONE DRAGON ON THE GROUND!"